

Russia considering 'first use' nuclear strike

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Russian President Dmitry
Medvedev

A top Russian policy-maker announces a revision of Moscow's military doctrine, saying Russia could attempt a first nuclear strike, should it detect the threat of an incoming attack.

"In conditions critical for national security one should not also exclude a preventive nuclear strike on the aggressor," Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev was quoted as saying in comments to the domestic paper *Izvestia*.

The official said Moscow was reconsidering its military doctrine. Based on the doctrine's current provisions, Russia would reportedly only carry out a nuclear strike if it were attacked with weapons of mass destruction or if it were the victim of "large-scale aggression" using conventional arms.

"The conditions have been revised for the use of nuclear weapons to rebuff an aggression with the use of conventional weapons, not only on a massive-scale but on a regional and even local level," Patrushev added.

"Moreover, different variants are considered to allow the use of nuclear weapons depending on a certain situation and intentions of a would-be enemy," he added.

The comments came amid reported progress in joint discussions between the Kremlin and the White House on arms reduction. The two sides are supposed to devise a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) which will expire by December.

The official said the threats may realize as the talks are in progress.

Russian commander-in-chief and the chief of the Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev will review the council's reworking of the doctrine by the end of the year.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=108677§ionid=351020602>